



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)  
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

**DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO – Volcano**

Fact Sheet #12, Fiscal Year (FY) 2002

February 1, 2002

*The last Fact Sheet was dated January 30. New information is underlined.*

**Numbers Affected**

Total Affected: 350,000 (U.N.)  
Deaths: Approximately 147 (U.N. and USAID/OFDA field reports)  
Displaced People: Approximately 30,000 (USAID/OFDA field reports)  
Homes destroyed: 12,000 households (Approximately 80,000 people) (USAID/OFDA field reports)

**Current Situation**

- Most aid agencies agree that approximately 12,000 households, or 80,000 people, lost their homes as a result of the volcano.
- USAID/OFDA field staff report that there are approximately 30,000 displaced people in the following areas: in Sake, DRC (5,000); in Rutshuru, DRC (5,000); in displacement camps near Gisenyi and Ruhengeri, Rwanda (5,000); in Bukavu, DRC (15,000).
- Relief agencies have not yet resolved the question of where to settle the families who lost their homes during the volcano. Possible options include moving to sites near Goma, resettling in neighboring towns, or returning previously displaced people to their areas of origin. The Rassemblement Congolaise pour la Democratie (RCD), which controls the area, has banned any reconstruction on top of the recent lava flows and has announced that two sites outside of Goma might be available for resettlement as early as February 2. A survey of homeless Goma residents by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) revealed high amounts of resistance to settling in the outskirts of Goma or in other towns.
- A general distribution of non-food items is complete, having provided assistance to 57,000 families. A registration of affected families is underway to determine those whose homes were destroyed by the volcano. The registration is expected to be completed on February 2. Registered families will receive a “displacement pack” containing two water jugs, three blankets, one five-person cooking set, five kilograms of soap, and one plastic sheet for shelter.
- USAID/OFDA field staff report that commercial markets are reopening throughout the city.
- The World Food Program (WFP) completed its general distribution on January 28. A total of 1,204 metric tons (MT) of food was distributed to 57,000 families. Subsequent distributions will target directly affected households. WFP expects to have a targeted beneficiary list next week.
- There are currently 30 water bladders positioned throughout the city, receiving a total of one million liters of water by truck from the city water network each day. There are also 24 chlorination stations along the waterfront to provide potable water. The water distribution system is estimated to be providing water to 50 percent of its previous service area.
- There have been several reports of diarrhea in two neighborhoods in Goma. Tests are taking place to determine the cause of the illnesses. A measles vaccination campaign for all children under five will begin on February 7. There have been three unconfirmed cases of measles in Goma. There has been one confirmed case of cholera to date. Despite these incidents, relief agencies in Goma consider the health situation to be under control.
- Relief shipments entering DRC from Rwanda are being required to present special permits. Obtaining the permits requires delays of up to two days. The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) is negotiating to lift these requirements. The RCD has announced that no visas or tariffs will be required for humanitarian shipments crossing from Rwanda into DRC until February 28.
- Humanitarian and passenger flights are arriving at the Goma airport regularly. Because part of the airstrip remains covered in lava it cannot be certified as an international airstrip, preventing its use by the Mission de l’Organisation des Nations Unies au Congo (MONUC). Local authorities are considering options for repairing the airstrip to return it to its previous capacity.

**U.S. Government Response**

- USAID/OFDA has made \$3 million available for relief assistance in response to the Goma volcano. Funds may be applied toward monetary grants to relief agencies, additional commodities shipments, or local purchase of relief items as needs require.
- USAID/OFDA has allocated \$100,000 to reimburse Catholic Relief Services (CRS) for relief supplies that it provided as part of the immediate Goma volcano response.

- USAID/OFDA is sending a shelter planner and a volcanologist to assist with resettlement efforts in and around Goma. They will join the USAID assistance team already in place, including a water/sanitation engineer, a food security specialist, and a field operations officer.
- USAID/OFDA has provided seismographic equipment to the Goma Volcanic Observatory that is allowing seismologists in the area to better understand the continuing low-level earthquakes being experienced in the affected area.
- USAID/OFDA has provided two airlifts of relief commodities containing a total of 40,000 wool blankets, 35,200 water jugs, 20 10,000-liter water bladders, 300 rolls of plastic sheeting for shelter, and 5,000 dust masks.
- USAID Office of Food for Peace (USAID/FFP) has approved the loan of 1,714 metric tons (MT) of Title II emergency food aid, valued at \$1.1 million, from existing programs in the region.
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has approved the loan of 3,450 MT of 416(b) emergency food commodities, valued at \$2.3 million, from existing programs in the region.
- USAID/OFDA has provided \$50,000 to the U.S. Embassies in Kinshasa and Kigali for Goma relief assistance.
- This is the last regular USAID/OFDA Fact Sheet for the Goma Volcano. Additional Fact Sheets will be released as necessary.

#### **Relief Efforts**

- UNOCHA has announced that its appeal for assistance programs in Goma over the next three to four months will not be released for up to two weeks.
- USAID/OFDA field staff report that many relief personnel have departed Goma or will depart this weekend. Relief agencies consider the immediate emergency phase of the disaster to be over. Activities now will focus on rehabilitation of Goma and affected populations.
- Fifteen donors, not including the U.S. Government, have pledged over \$23 million of assistance for the Goma volcano disaster.

#### **Background**

- Mt. Nyiragongo erupted at approximately 9:30 AM local time (2:30 AM EST) on January 17. The volcano produced three paths of lava, one of which headed toward the city of Goma, 18 kilometers to the south. A fourth fissure opened at 4:00 PM on January 17. The area had been experiencing tremors intermittently since March 2001. The most recent eruption of Mt. Nyiragongo was in 1977, when the lava flow covered 20 square kilometers, killed 2,000 people, and destroyed 400 houses and a 10-kilometre section of road.
- On January 18, U.S. Ambassador to Rwanda Margaret K. McMillion and U.S. Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) Aubrey Hooks declared disasters for the eruption of Mt. Nyiragongo near Goma in the DRC.

#### **U.S. Government Assistance Funding Summary**

##### ***USAID/OFDA***

- Monetary support to implementation partners providing assistance to volcano-affected populations in DRC and Rwanda.....\$150,000
- A January 21 airlift of USAID/OFDA relief commodities, including blankets, water jugs, water bladders, and dust masks. The cost includes the value of the commodities and the cost of transportation .....\$494,000
- A January 23 airlift of USAID/OFDA relief commodities departed the USAID/OFDA warehouse in Italy. The second airlift contains blankets, water jugs, and plastic sheeting. The cost includes the value of the commodities and the cost of transportation. ....\$339,337
- Seismographic equipment for the Goma Volcano Observatory, to arrive in Kigali on January 30. The cost includes the value of the commodities and the cost of transportation. ....\$39,750

##### ***USAID/FFP***

- USAID/FFP has approved the loan of 1,714 MT of Title II emergency food aid from ongoing programs in the region. The cost includes the value of transportation and other associated expenses.....\$1,100,000

##### ***USDA***

- USDA has approved the loan of 3,450 MT of 416(b) emergency food commodities from ongoing programs in the region. The cost includes the value of transportation and other associated expenses.....\$2,255,000

USAID/OFDA .....	\$1,023,087
USAID/FFP .....	\$1,100,000
USDA .....	\$2,255,000
<b>Total USG Assistance .....</b>	<b>\$4,378,087</b>

*USAID/OFDA fact sheets can be obtained from the USAID web site at [http://www.usaid.gov/hum\\_response/ofda/situation.html](http://www.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/situation.html)*